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1924-1925

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West Texas Pecan Nursery

San Saba, Texas

E. E. Risien & Son, Proprietors

Originators and Propagators of High Grade Pecans. Established 1888



Produced by
E. E. RISIEN & SON
San Saba, Texas

Texas Prolific Tree, Ripening Four Large Nuts Before Being Removed From Our Nursery.

OUR ENDEAVOR

It can be easily understood that during the ages past and in its wild or uncultivated state, in a general way, the tendency has been for the finest and thinnest shelled pecans to be eaten and destroyed, to a considerable extent, by various kinds of animals and birds, and the thick shelled and inferior ones left to germinate and perpetuate the specie. Yet, in the face of this adversity, the pecan has evolved into what is now probably the most valuable North American tree.

If this process be reversed and only the most intelligently selected and best bred nuts be planted, and allowed to perpetuate, there is good reason to believe, and it has been our experience, that varieties can be evolved, in comparison with which the finest that are known today will be quite ordinary.

On our properties near San Saba town, and at the Junction of the San Saba and Colorado rivers, we now have growing and are testing out many hundreds of young seedlings of various ages, which are the products of our very finest and best bred seed, and unlike animal life or annual plants, which can only be multiplied or increased by the sexual process, and which therefore require several generations to "fix" or become pure blooded, and also constant care to preserve the breed and to prevent their becoming fertilized from inferior stock, with consequent deterioration, perennial plants, which include the pecan, can be multiplied into as many plants of the same kind and character as the original, or the one from which the buds or scions were taken, as may be desired by the grafting and budding process. So we will be able to supply the tree-buying public, trees that are of the same kind and character and that are as good as the very best and most ideal that may be selected from them.

If one selects or invests in most any other article or commodity, and it in time becomes out of date or proves unsatisfactory, it can be disposed of or perhaps exchanged for something more desirable; but if one plants a tree which does not give satisfaction, practically nothing can be done to remedy the mistake, so we are very earnestly studying and endeavoring to supply trees of the very latest and most up to date "model." And if there are those who can point out a way to improve them we will be very glad to consider it. Also, rather than buy inferior trees or lose several years trying to grow them by planting seed, to save the price per tree of about two pounds of high grade nuts, why not buy them from a responsible Nursery and thus get the benefit of many years of observation, research and practical experience?

TERMS AND CONDITION

As trees are perishable goods it is little protection to us to send them C. O. D. The most satisfactory way is for strangers to send cash, and if there is any shortage in number or quality we will cheerfully and promptly adjust it.

We are careful to send out nothing but live, healthy trees, well packed, and do not, and should not be expected to guarantee them further.

As there is always a strong demand for our trees, we do not solicit any agents, or representatives.

Owing to the fact that parties having room for but two, or three trees, naturally want extra nice ones, and that it requires about as much time and material to pack that number as it does six or eight, we have had to price them accordingly.

We make every reasonable effort to fill all orders according to specification and agreement and are under no circumstances liable for damage or judgment.

PRICES

1924-'25

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 to 3 trees | \$2.00 each |
| 4 to 10 trees | 1.50 each |
| 11 to 30 trees | 1.40 each |
| 31 to 50 trees | 1.30 each |
| 51 to 100 trees | 1.20 each |

DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES

PECAN SUPREME: Number per pound, about 60; per cent of meat, 70; comparative cracking quality, 95 per cent; flavor, delicious. This pecan is believed to contain the highest per cent of meat of any variety known and in a recent contest in which there were over a hundred entries, and in which the grading was done by officials of the A. & M. College of Texas, it was awarded the prize for being the best all around pecan entered. As the mother tree is yet small and the supply of buds and graftwood available limited, it will be several years before we can include more than four or five per cent of this variety with an order.

ONLIWON: Number per pound, 55; per cent of meat, 63; cracking quality, 85 per cent. This is a sturdy growing prolific tree with lustrous foliage and fine appearance.

SAN SABA IMPROVED: Number per pound, 55; per cent of meat, 60; cracking quality, 90 per cent. Flavor very delicious. We consider this one of our very best varieties but unfortunately it is very difficult and uncertain to propagate.

WESTERN SCHLEY: Number per pound, 60; per cent of meat, 58; cracking quality, 80 per cent. Shape long. This is a very healthy and prolific variety, and seems to be gaining in popularity.

TEXAS PROLIFIC: Number per pound, 52; per cent of meat, 56; cracking quality, 75 per cent; appearance of nut very attractive. This is one of our first introductions and as the name implies is very prolific and precocious. The "mother tree" of this well known variety, or the one from which all of the many Texas Prolific trees which are now growing throughout the Southwest have been directly or indirectly derived, is now a beautiful and well branched young tree growing on our property in a fine location a few hundred feet from the junction of the San Saba and Colorado rivers, where it will probably live for centuries.

SQUIRRELS' DELIGHT: Number per pound, 50; per cent of meat, 55; cracking quality, 70 per cent. This is a very sturdy and prolific variety which we believe deserves to be planted more extensively than it has been.

BANQUET: Number per pound, 45; per cent of meat, 55; cracking quality, 75 per cent. Appearance of nuts very attractive, making it a very fine commercial variety.

LIBERTY BOND: Number per pound, 53; per cent of meat, 57; cracking quality, 90 per cent; flavor, delicious. This is a prolific healthy tree with strong forks and one which we es-

teem very highly. But unfortunately, we find it to be very difficult and uncertain to propagate and we carry but a small stock of them.

McCULLY: All of the above described varieties owe their origin and existence to trees which are from seed which we have carefully selected, planted and cared for while being "tested out" to see what kind of fruit they would bear. But we are indebted to Mr. W. D. McCully of Brownwood, Texas, who owns the mother tree, for the first scions and buds of this valuable variety. We have no very fair test but we believe it would be: Number per pound, 55; per cent of meat, 63 or higher; cracking quality, 90 per cent. We believe this to be the finest wild, or chance pecan that has been, or is likely to be discovered.

STUARTS & SCHLEYS: We have some of these in stock, but they are so well known we do not deem it necessary to give a detailed description.

SEEDLINGS: We have 3-year old seedlings from our very choicest seed for one half the price of grafted stock.

CARE OF TREES ON ARRIVAL

If conditions are not favorable for planting trees when they are received they can be safely and easily stored, or "healed out" as it is called, by placing the roots in a pit or trench and covering them with fine moist soil. If there are hot dry winds blowing the top should be protected from the sun.

PLANTING

Pecans like other hardwood trees are difficult to transplant, but if proper precaution is taken there should be no serious losses.

In the first place the holes need not be very large but should be deep enough that the entire root system will be covered with constantly moist earth as it is obvious that the tree will get little benefit from those which are not.

As a general thing care should be taken that water drains toward a tree and not away from it, but there should be a small hill or mound immediately around the tree to give it all possible protection from the sun and air, and to guard against the upper part of the root system being disturbed or worked loose by the wind swaying the tree. The tree should have water often enough to keep the subsoil quite moist, but stagnant water will sour the roots. For ordinary conditions a good watering once a week the first season will give good results and as a gallon of water will not saturate a yard of earth **be sure the water reaches the roots.**

Where irrigation is not possible and it becomes necessary

to haul or carry water to the young trees in buckets, we find the most efficient and economical way to apply it, is to insert an old bucket four or five inches in the ground, or deep enough to keep it in place, about two inches distant from the tree, making a hole about one-half inch in diameter in the side of the bottom near the tree. This will insure the water reaching the roots and the tree getting the full benefit of it, instead of spreading over the surface and soon evaporating, as it does when applied in the usual way.

A mulch of stalks, straw or even dead weeds around the tree will serve the double purpose of keeping the ground cool and moist and help to smother out weeds, and grass, etc., and as it decays will fertilize the soil, but notice should be taken that it is not thick enough to heat.

The most simple and effective way we have devised to protect the young trees from possible late freezes and scorching summer sun also from injury by rabbits, etc., is to wrap them loosely (loose materials are the most effective nonconductors of heat) with several layers of burlap or some such material, leaving a few inches at the top for foliage to put out. This may be taken off after danger of frost the second year or allowed to rot and fall off.

Sometimes newly planted trees will wither and die, without any visible cause, but proper examination will reveal the fact that the roots have been honey combed by wood lice, wood ants, or "Termites" as they are variously called, leaving nothing but the bark. The habits of these insects make them exceedingly hard to combat. If they appear above the surface at all it will be at night so they are rarely discovered until the tree is damaged beyond remedy. The only suggestion we can offer is to place a board of some soft wood a few inches from the tree in such a way as to harbor them if there are any present, and they can then be destroyed with carbon bisulphide.

We do not think there is any thing gained by transplanting trees before Christmas and we have known pecans which were transplanted as late as March 15th to grow off nicely.

PRUNING

It is impossible to transplant a tree without depriving it of part of the root system so in order to preserve the balance, about one half or one third of the top should be removed also, but afterward it should be remembered that nature does not do things without a purpose and that leaves are quite as essential to the growth of a plant as roots are.

In the animal kingdom the function of the lungs is to discharge carbon dioxide from the body and to absorb oxygen from the atmosphere, but in the vegetable kingdom this action is reversed and the function of the leaves is to discharge oxygen and

absorb carbon dioxide, and as carbon is the fuel element of wood, it is very necessary to the growth of plants.

It seems that the roots absorb the minerals and acids (of which ashes are composed) from the soil which are conveyed in a soluble form, through the sap wood of the tree, to the leaves, where being acted upon by the sun's rays they combine with the gases of the atmosphere (which pass away in flame) to form the complete or growth producing sap, which is then distributed between the bark and wood of the plant where growth takes place. There are several indications of this. One being that in the spring the buds are the starting point of activity and growth, from where it extends to the limbs and trunks of the tree as the foliage develops. Another is that if a tree is girdled or tightly corded, until the tree dies, growth will be somewhat stimulated above the point but there will be absolutely none below.

If the terminal bud of an undesirable branch is pinched out about the first of May it will check the growth so that it will soon be shaded down, and nature will do the balance. If a large tree is developing a fork, a few small limbs cut from the top of one, will be a sufficient check to allow the other to become the leader.

CULTIVATION

In commercial orchards pecans may be planted from 30 to 60 ft. apart; but if the former distance is chosen it will in time be necessary to remove every other tree. Where it is intended to grow other crops between the rows as is generally the case about 50 ft. is an ideal distance.

Our observation has lead us to the conclusion that deep cultivation is conducive to the mysterious disease known as Pecan Rosette and after the tree begins to bear, should be avoided. Planting feed crops such as maize and sorghum among the trees should also be avoided.

In our locality we have no occasion to use fertilizer either in our Nursery or Orchard, as we can not speak from experience on that subject we suggest that those desiring information write to some of the State Experiment Stations.



THE REWARD

If I can lead a man who has been blind
To see the beauty in a blade of grass;
If I can aid my fellow-men to find
The friendliness of trees they daily pass;

If I can stir a soul to view the dawn
With seeing eyes and hold the vision clear
So he may drink the rapture when 'tis gone
To purify some sordid atmosphere;

If I can help the human ear to hear
The gladness in the waterfall's refrain;
The tenderness of robin's piping clear;
The healing in the sound of falling rain;

If I can rouse but one to that re-birth
Which sees God mirrored in each flower and tree
To feel his oneness with the whole of earth
Why, that will be a priceless joy to me!

—Grace G. Bostwick.